

ON A COLLECTION OF GROUND BEETLES (CARABIDAE) FROM
WAZIRISTAN.

BY

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In the spring of 1930 (March and April) an Excursion, organized by St. Xavier's College, Bombay, under the direction of the Rev. Dr. G. Palacios, visited the little-known region of Waziristan. The Carabidae found there were sent, with other insects, to the British Museum, and I have been asked to give some account of them. Twenty-one species are included in the collection, and all but one of these are referred to below; a solitary specimen of a *Lebia*, unknown to me, is in such poor condition that I cannot deal with it here. Of the remaining twenty species two are confined, so far as I am aware, to eastern Central Asia, twelve are found in the Himalayan region of North India, and six are new. An enumeration of the species follows, after which will be found the descriptions of the new ones; the type specimens of the latter will be placed in the British Museum.

1. *Calosoma maderae* F. Syst. Ent. 1775, p. 237 var. *auropunctatum* Herbst in Arch. Ins.—gesch. (Fuessly). v. 1784, p. 131; Andr. Faun. Brit. Ind. Carab. i. 1929, pp. 51 and 58.

1 Ex. Both the type-form and the variety are widely spread through the palaearctic region; the former has not yet been found in India, but the latter is common in the North-West.

2. *Scarites granulatus* Andr. Faun. Brit. Ind. Carab. i. 1929. pp. 231 and 256.

1 Ex. I have previously seen only two examples of this species, one from Pusa, the other found in Bengal on the banks of the Brahmaputra River. In the specimen from Waziristan the head is more coarsely striate than in the type.

3. *Scarites limitaneus* sp. n. (See p. 863).

4. *Bembidion insidiosum* Solsky in Fedchenko's Reise in Turkestan ii. pt. v. 1874, p. 130. Razmak.

1 Ex. I have not seen the type, but the example agrees with a specimen from Buchara in my collection; the species is not at present known from India.

5. *Bembidion waziristanum* sp. n. (See p. 863).

6. *Bembidion palaciosi* sp. n. (See p. 864).

7. *Tachys tetraspilus* Solsky in Fedchenko's Reise in Turkestan ii. pt. v. 1874, p. 114; Andr. Revision of the Oriental species of the genus *Tachys*, Ann. Mus. Civ. Gen. li. 1925, pp. 404 and 433.

3 Ex. Found both in Central Asia and North India.

8. *Chlaenius hamifer* Chaud., Bull. Mosc. 1856. ii, p. 209.

1 Ex. Very common throughout South-East Asia.

9. *Chlaenius lederi* Reitt., Deutch. Ent. Zeitschr. 1888, p. 417.

1 Ex. A Central Asian species not hitherto met with in India.

10. *Chlaenius tenuelimbatus* Ball., Bull. Mosc. 1870. ii, p. 326.

3 Ex. The species is known from Central Asia and Kashmir.

11. *Licinus corustes* sp. n. (See p. 864).

12. *Acinopus laevigatus* Mén., Cat. rais. 1832, p. 128.

1 Ex. A fairly common insect, met with in Central Asia, Persia, and Kashmir.

13. *Harpalus melaneus* Bates, Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond. 1878, p. 714; id., Scientific Results of the Second Yarkand Mission, Col. 1891, p. 6, t. 1. f. 4.

Razmak, 1 Ex. Common throughout the western half of the Himalayan tract. In the Waziristan example the puncturation of the prothorax is very much reduced, but Dr. Schauberger informs me that he has in his collection

specimens from the Chinese Province of Szechuen, in which this character is a very variable one.

14. *Harpalus confinalis* sp. n. (see p. 865).

15. *Amara (Leiocnemis) himalaica* Bates, Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond. 1878, p. 716, id., Scientific Results of the Second Yarkand Mission, Col. 1891, p. 14.

Razmak, 4 Ex., varying somewhat in their characters, and mostly in poor condition. Confined to the mountainous region of North-West India.

16. *Sphodrus indus* Chaud., Bull. Mosc. 1852. i, p. 67.

1 Ex. Found only in the mountains of North-West India.

17. *Pheropsophus catoirei* Dej., Spec. Gen. i. 1825, p. 301.

7 Ex. Common throughout India and in Ceylon, but much commoner in the north than in the south.

18. *Metabletus fuscomaculatus* Metch., Ins. Sib. 1844, p. 59.

1 Ex., but a second fragmentary specimen probably belongs to the same species. The numerous forms of this very variable species are widely spread over the southern palaeartic area, extending from Madeira on the west, through the Mediterranean region, to Central Asia and the Himalayas.

19. *Metabletus ephippiger* sp. n. (see p. 865).

20. *Cymindis glabrella* Bates, Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond. 1878, p. 719; id., Scientific results of the Second Yarkand Mission, Col. 1891, p. 20, t. 1. f. 17.

1 Ex., immature and crushed, but belonging apparently to this species, which has been known hitherto from Kashmir only.

Scarites limitaneus sp. n.

Length: 21–23 mm. Width: 5.75–6.5 mm.

Head with the lateral truncature straight, the preocular angle hardly projecting laterally, frontal impressions shallow, surface moderately striate in front, nearly smooth behind; mandibles rather small, finely striate, median carina strongly sinuate, left mandible with a wide basal tooth, right one with two teeth, eyes flat, genae shorter than eyes, projecting as far laterally; antennae reaching hind angles of prothorax, joints 5 to 10 hardly longer than wide; mentum rugose-striate, granulate at base, a median carina from apex of tooth to base, a lateral carina on each side near margins of lobes. *Prothorax* about a fifth wider than head and a fourth wider than long, base hardly produced, but with an obtuse angle at each end of the median part, its sides nearly straight, front angles each projecting forward as a small tooth, sides bisetose, curved near front angles, thence gently contracted, with a well marked tooth at each hind angle; median line fine, front transverse impression deep at sides, subinterrupted at middle, vaguely crenulate, basal foveæ just indicated and lightly granulate. *Elytra* evidently dilated behind, their width increasing from 5.25 mm. at base to 6.25 mm. at apical third, where they are as wide as prothorax, four-fifths longer than wide, base granulate, emarginate at middle, its sides straight and rather strongly oblique, shoulders dentate; striae lightly crenulate, shallow at middle, much deeper at sides, especially near shoulders; intervals flat, convex behind shoulders, where 6 and 7 are narrow and subcostate, 3 with two pores near apex, granulation confined to interval 8 and marginal channel, that often present along the sides of the striae obsolete; surface smooth, apical half dull, covered by an isodiametric microsculpture. Underside impunctate; metepisterna twice as long as wide; protibiae with 2 to 3 denticulations above upper tooth; mesotibiae with two equal spurs.

Allied to *S. salinus* Dej., but smaller. Head similar, but with the antennal joints shorter; prothorax relatively wider, its sides less parallel, sides of base usually straighter; elytra evidently dilated behind (nearly parallel in *salinus*), the striae much less impressed, with hardly a trace of granulation along their sides, interval 8 not costate or coarsely granulate behind shoulder, the sides of the basal border more oblique.

Waziristan (without exact locality), 5 Ex.

Bembidion waziristanum sp. n.

Length: 5.5–6 mm.

Black: upper side rather faintly aeneous, palpi ferruginous, first joint of antennae, legs (except base of femora), and a vague apical spot on each elytron dull red.

Head with single deep parallel furrows, extending to sides of clypeus, neck wide, eyes rather flat, antennae rather thick, reaching basal third of elytra, surface vaguely rugose between the furrows, with a few fine scattered

punctures behind. *Prothorax* convex, cordate, about a fourth wider than head and as much wider than long, extremities equally contracted, sides rather strongly rounded in front, sinuate a little before base, the marginal channel widening a little on basal half, hind angles sharp and rectangular, with a well developed carina; median line and transverse impressions all moderately deep, basal foveae deep, surface smooth, basal area finely and irregularly punctate. *Elytra* moderately convex, oval, a half wider than prothorax, three-fifths longer than wide, border at base reaching stria 5; striae moderately deep and very clearly punctate, much shallower, though visible, at sides and apex, 3 to 6 only disappearing just before apex, 2 shallow but visible near apex, 8 deep, joining 9 at basal third, scutellary striole fairly long, apical stria moderately deep, joining 7, the pore in the stria; intervals somewhat convex on disk, otherwise flat, the two dorsal pores on the inner side of stria 3. Microsculpture of elytra formed by fine strongly transverse meshes, none on prothorax or head, except on labrum and neck, where there are isodiametric meshes. Underside impunctate. metasternal process bordered.

Allied to *semilotum* Net., a little smaller and aeneous instead of blue. Head with deeper furrows, surface smoother and less punctate, eyes flatter; prothorax wider, with wider lateral channels, surface less punctate; elytra less contracted towards base, striae a little deeper with rather larger, clearer punctures, microsculpture of elytra similar, but none visible even on sides or base of prothorax.

Razmak, 6 Ex.

Bembidion palaciosi sp. n.

Length: 4.75 mm.

Piceous: head and prothorax blue; palpi, antennae, and legs flavous, elytra each with two large ferruginous spots, nearly meeting at middle.

Head with single deep parallel wide furrows, extending to clypeus, sub-interrupted opposite clypeal suture, eyes prominent, antennae slender, surface with a few scattered punctures behind. *Prothorax* convex, cordate, only a little wider than head, a fourth wider than long, extremities equally contracted, sides strongly rounded in front, sinuate close to base, marginal channel very narrow, hind angles sharp and rectangular, with a short carina; median line and transverse impressions all moderately marked, basal foveae small but fairly deep, surface nearly smooth, basal area finely but clearly punctate. *Elytra* moderately convex, ovate, about two-thirds wider than prothorax, three-fifths longer than wide, widest behind middle, border at base reaching stria 5; striae moderately deep and very clearly punctate, much shallower at sides and behind, 2 quite distinct to apex, 7 almost invisible, 8 deep, joining 9 at a fourth from base, scutellary striole fairly long, apical stria rather short, joining 5, the pore in the stria; intervals somewhat convex on disk, flat elsewhere, the two dorsal pores on stria 3. The microsculpture of the elytra is formed by very fine wide meshes; the head and prothorax are without any on disk, but meshes are visible on sides and base of prothorax, and also on the neck. Underside impunctate; metasternal process bordered.

Closely allied to the Central Asian *abbreviatum*—*dilutipenne*—*persicum*—*marginipenne* group, but the elytra are more clearly and deeply punctate-striate than in any of them. The elytra have exactly the pattern of *pamirense* Bates, but the head and prothorax are blue; head with deeper frontal foveae, and much more prominent eyes; prothorax a little wider, with more strongly rounded sides, the base punctate, but not rugose; elytra with rather deeper striae, also slightly larger and deeper punctures.

Razmak, 4 Ex.

Licinus corustes sp. n.

Length: 9.5–10 mm. Width: 4–4.2 mm.

Black, rather dull, especially the elytra, apex of palpi dull red.

Head short, flattened in front, the foveae rather shallow, substriate, labrum only slightly emarginate, but strongly asymmetrical, clypeus bisetose, deeply emarginate, exposing the basal support of the labrum, which is not membranous and which is separated from the labrum by a deep sulcus, a transverse ridge in front of the clypeal suture, to which the curved emargination of the clypeus is almost tangential, antennae thickly pubescent from and including

joint 4, joint 1 as long as 2+3, and a little thicker than the other joints, eyes rather flat, surface finely and not very closely punctate. *Prothorax* cordate, rather flat, a half wider than head, a fourth wider than long, extremities equally contracted, moderately emarginate, sides bisetose, bordered, slightly but rather widely explanate, rounded in front, straight behind, hind angles strongly rounded and slightly reflexed; median line fine, becoming deeper and widening out behind, but not reaching base, front transverse impression shallow, basal foveae moderately deep, disk and front margin finely and sparsely punctate, surface otherwise rather coarsely and closely punctate. *Elytra* oval, moderately convex, a distinct emargination on each side before apex, striae fairly deep, and closely punctate, a little shallower near apex, intervals moderately convex, rather sparsely and irregularly punctate, the punctures more evident on the odd than on the even ones, the marginal series larger, along the middle of interval 9, marginal channel closely punctate. Microsculpture isodiametric, very distinct on the elytra, hardly visible on the head or on the disk of prothorax. Sterna and sides of venter at base finely punctate, the metepisterna and sides of metasternum more strongly punctate. Metepisterna a half longer than wide; both pro- and meta-sternal processes bordered.

Smaller than *astrabadensis* Reitt., the head much smaller, the prothorax much more contracted behind, the elytral striae deeper, and the intervals more convex.

Razmak, 2 Ex. ♂ ♀, unfortunately not in very good condition.

Harpalus confinalis sp. n.

Length: 7.5-8 mm. Width: 3.3-2 mm.

Black, moderately shiny: palpi and joints 1 and 2 of antennae ferruginous, rest of antennae fuscous, tarsi piceous.

Head convex, smooth, clypeal suture very fine, frontal foveae small, eyes not prominent, antennae slender, reaching just beyond base of prothorax, tooth of mentum very short and obtuse. *Prothorax* convex, subquadrate, very nearly a half wider than head, and about as much wider than long, base bordered, much wider than apex, sides unisetose, finely bordered, well rounded in front, nearly straight behind, without trace of situation, hind angles right and slightly rounded, median line very fine, transverse impressions vague, basal foveae small, very lightly punctate, a few punctures extending to hind angles and lateral channels, basal and apical areas rather uneven, middle of base slightly longitudinally striate. *Elytra* convex, subovate, barely wider than prothorax, a little more than a half longer than wide, shoulders with a rudimentary tooth, apex moderately emarginate on each side striae impunctate, rather fine, though clearly impressed, intervals nearly flat, 3 with a pore at apical fourth, 9 with a series of small punctures in addition to the larger ones of the marginal series bordering stria 8. Microsculpture isodiametric, barely visible on head and disk of prothorax. Underside smooth, prosternal process glabrous, metepisterna a half longer than wide, base of venter finely punctate and setulose, last 3 segments smooth, apical segment ♂ with two marginal setae on each side, metafemora plurisetose.

About the same length as *H. anxius* Duft., but wider, prothorax more rounded in front, so that the front angles are less evident, a little contracted behind (parallel in *anxius*), elytra wider, similarly striate, the humeral tooth rudimentary.

Waziristan (without exact locality), 4 Ex. ♂♂.

Metabletus ephippiger sp. n.

Length: 2.7 mm.

Flavous: prothorax and neck red, head, a deep median band on the elytra, covering nearly a third of their surface, produced along suture to base in front, and for a short distance behind, apex of elytra, and apex of venter piceous.

Head without any distinct frontal foveae, surface very distinctly but not closely punctate, eyes rather flat; mentum with a short obtuse tooth, antennae submoniliform. *Prothorax* cordate, just wider than head, not quite a half wider than long, base produced at middle, its sides oblique and emarginate, apex slightly emarginate, front angles adjoining neck, sides bisetose, finely bordered, well rounded in front, sinuate a little before base, the hind angles sharply rectangular and a little reflexed; median line and hind transverse impression moderately deep, front transverse impression obsolete, basal foveae slight, surface, like that of head, sparsely punctate. *Elytra* flat, gradually dilated behind and widest

not far from apex, four-fifths wider than prothorax, about a third longer than wide, truncate behind, leaving the abdomen exposed; striae so lightly impressed as to be barely visible, though nevertheless containing microscopic punctures, intervals flat, 3 with a minute pore at a third from apex, adjoining stria 3, a large umbilicate pore on each side of scutellum; surface with a few almost invisible scattered punctures. Microsculpture of prothorax and elytra formed by very wide meshes, that of head isodiametric. The pectination of the claws is very slight.

A little larger than *M. myrmidon* Frm., the prothorax red, the pale area on the elytra more extensive, the head and prothorax conspicuously punctate, the elytra with less evident striae.

Waziristan (without exact locality). 1 Ex.